

Serial No. 10/025,326
60282-025**REMARKS**

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 8, 12, and 16-18 have been amended. New claims 21-29 are presented. Accordingly, claims 8-29 are pending.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Lacy* (5577737). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Contrary to the Examiners assertion, *Lacy* discloses only that the cap 46 is threaded upon square threads 82, which may be seen on either side of the unitized housing 44 at the upper half of FIG. 3. *Lacy* fails to disclose or suggest that the inner seal cartridge is press fit into said outer seal cartridge as recited in the amended claim. Notably, the end cap 46 only stops the packing from extruding out the back of the unitized housing 44 by trapping the upper self-alignment bushing 48.

Claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lacy* (5577737) in view of *Amorese* (3582089). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify *Lacy* in view of *Amorese* as proposed. *Lacy* discloses a reciprocating seal. *Amorese* discloses a rotating seal - not a reciprocating seal. *Amorese* specifically discloses that seal member 44 defines a *rotating* sealing surface 54. Rotating and reciprocating seals require different designs, especially at the pressure levels disclosed and claimed in the present invention. There is no motivation to combine the radically different seal designs of *Lacy* and *Amorese*. In fact, the rotating sealing surface would render *Lacy* inoperable if utilized in reciprocating machine. It is improper to modify the base reference in such a way that it ruins the goal or function of the base reference. The Examiner's proposed modification would do so. Accordingly, claims 8-12 are properly allowable.

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Even if the combination were properly made, there are differences between the claimed invention and the teachings of the cited references so that the combination does not meet the limitations of Applicant's claims. The cited references do not disclose or suggest an *interference* surface. This is particularly apparent as the seal member 44 defines a *rotating* sealing surface 54. Such rotation (and thus the rotational sealing of *Amorese*) would be impossible if it was mounted through an *interference* fit. The claims are properly allowable.

Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dennison Jr.* (5507502) in view of *Butler* (4230325). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. *Dennison* is very specific about the material used. *Dennison* utilizes 60% to 85% by weight virgin polytetrafluoroethylene with the remainder being metasilicate for the rings 11, 18. [col. 2, lines 49-54] That is, the wedge rings of *Dennison* are non-metallic. The packing P is stated as conventional and is compressed by an adjustable gland G. [Col. 3, lines 19-23] As admitted by the Examiner *Dennison* does not disclose non-metallic packings. Contrary to the Examiner's suggestion, *Butler* only discloses that the entire sealing assembly is the two-piece wedge ring which is compressed by an adjustment nut 14, 16 to drive the wedges into position. *Butler* fails to disclose packing of any type. Simply, there is no motivation to combine *Dennison Jr.* in view of *Butler* to provide metallic wedge rings with a non-metallic packing. The only motivation to make the combination as proposed is by following the knowledge disclosed within the present invention. This is impermissible usage of hindsight in an attempt to recreate Applicant's device. Accordingly, claims 17-20 are properly allowable.

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lacy* (5577737) in view of *Amorese* (3582089) and further in view of *Dennison Jr.* (5507502) and *Butler* (4230325). In furtherance of Applicant's point of impermissible usage of hindsight with just *Dennison Jr.* in view of *Butler*, the proposed rejections incorporation of all the references indicates that the Examiner is utilizing Applicant's invention as a blueprint. This is hindsight. Claims 13-16 are properly allowable.

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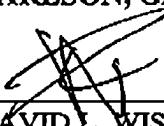
New claims 21-29 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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